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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,288	09/16/2005	Seiichi Terui	278257US3PCT	1979
22850	7590	12/14/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			SINGH, KAVEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/14/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/549,288	TERUI ET AL.
	Examiner Kavel P. Singh	Art Unit 3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 24-29,33-37 and 45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 24-29,33-37 and 45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/16/05</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I in the reply filed on 10/22/07 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 24-29,33-37 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubicek U.S. Patent No. 3,944,046.

Claims 24,25,26,33,34,35,36,37, and 45, Kubicek teaches a tray stocker (38) provided inside an apparatus main body (10) to be movable in a vertical direction for storing plural component supply trays arranged in the vertical direction (Fig. 2); a tray stocker drive device (C3 L9-11) for moving the tray stocker (38) in the vertical direction to position the tray stocker (38) to a predetermined position (C3 L19-21); a tray drawing mechanism (14) for drawing a component supply tray stored in the tray stocker to a component delivery position (12); wherein a main body side replenishment tray holding

section (14) for externally receiving and holding a replenishment tray (P) which is a component supply tray (14) loaded with components is provided at the uppermost end position on a moving locus of the tray stocker (38), while a tray discharge section (12) for holding an empty tray which is a component supply tray emptied of components and for discharging the empty tray out is provided at the lowermost end position of the moving locus (C2 L27-32); and wherein the tray stocker is provided at its upper end part (14) with a tray stocker side replenishment tray holding section (38,52) for receiving and holding the replenishment tray transferred from the main body side replenishment tray holding section and at its lower end part (12) with empty tray holding members for holding the empty tray to be discharged to the tray discharge section (C2 L30-31).

Claim 27, Kubicek teaches the main body side replenishment tray holding section (38,52) comprises a frame member (11) formed to be rectangular and first replenishment tray holding members (38,52) which are protruded from a pair of facing side plates of the frame member to be movable inward in the horizontal direction for holding the replenishment tray (C2 L65-68; C3 L1-3) (Fig. 1).

Claims 28 and 29, Kubicek teaches the frame member (11) is provided at an upper part of the apparatus main body to be drawable in the horizontal direction (14) so that the replenishment tray is replenished with the frame (11) member drawn out and is bodily provided at the upper part of the apparatus main body (14) and wherein a top plate of the apparatus main body is constructed to be opened and closed so that the replenishment tray is replenished with the top plate opened (C2 L20-25).

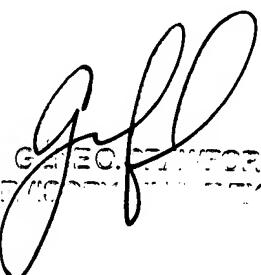
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Kavel P. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KPS



GEO. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISOR, EXAMINER